

Beckwith, William

From: Chung, Angela
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Grepo-Grove, Gina
Cc: Kissinger, Lon; Fleming, Sheila; Beckwith, William; Thomas, Sally
Subject: FW: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

Hi Gina et al,

FYI – I talked with Nancy Sonafrank (my ADEC counterpart) today about Gina’s email below. She was reassured to hear that Region 10 would offer technical review of these types of surveys.

Please note that I clarified for her – and was meaning to clarify for Gina too – that I don’t expect my unit to review the QAPP or provide comments to Gina’s group. However, I think it is helpful for Gina’s group to notify my unit (Bill Beckwith for AK) when a tribe submits a FCR survey QAPP just so we are aware of it.

As I noted in an earlier email, my unit has primarily relied on Lon to provide technical review/comments on fish consumption survey designs. Re Lon’s capacity to do these types of reviews, my understanding is that Sheila will assess the workload as we receive QAPPs and let Gina know what is do-able. It may be that there won’t be a lot of tribes pursuing this type of survey work or at least not all at once.

Nancy also asked that we let the tribes know that ADEC would be interested in discussing the surveys with the tribes directly and sharing information about what types of data the State is considering. I figured I could relay that request to the RTOC when I meet with them but am not sure if Lon or Gina could relay that request to any tribes who submit the QAPPs to us?

Let me know if anyone has concerns with the level of my Unit’s involvement moving forward. Thanks.

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From: Sonafrank, Nancy B (DEC) [<mailto:nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Chung, Angela
Subject: FW: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

I would like to spend a few minutes on this during our monthly call today at 12.

From: Grepo-Grove, Gina [<mailto:Grepo-Grove.Gina@epa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Tabor, Brock N (DEC)
Cc: Sonafrank, Nancy B (DEC); Kolwaite, Douglas S (DEC)
Subject: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

Hello Brock,

I informed our senior management about your concerns and our plan to allow DEC to concurrently review AK native village’s fish contamination QAPPs to ensure that the AK tribes are guided on the requirements of water quality standard.

They understand the need for the AK tribes to have technical guidance, however, they did not agree with including the State (DEC) in the review of the document and also in the concurrence part. The reason being, EPA would like to maintain our government-to-government engagement with the tribes and some of the AK tribes may not welcome (or happy) with the additional layer of review and the state's involvement. Moreover, R10 senior management is not in favor of including a concurrence page for DEC's signature in AK Tribe's QAPP submissions for water quality monitoring or fish consumption studies.

To assuage you of your concerns, however, the R10 senior management agreed that the Office of Water, water quality standards unit (Angela Chung's group) will review the QAPP submitted by the AK tribes concurrently with the fish consumption study expert (Lon Kissinger or other risk assessors) and the QA team.

Sorry Brock, I tried, but in the end I think by involving Angela and Lon's group in the review, technically acceptable work product will be generated by the AK tribes for their fish consumption studies.

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From: Tabor, Brock N (DEC) [<mailto:brock.tabor@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Grepo-Grove, Gina
Subject: RE: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

Just what I needed to hear. I'll make sure our leadership knows that we're working together on this.

Thx.

Brock

From: Grepo-Grove, Gina [<mailto:Grepo-Grove.Gina@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Tabor, Brock N (DEC)
Cc: Sonafrank, Nancy B (DEC)
Subject: RE: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

Hello Brock,

Thanks for the reminder. Yes, I gave instructions to the QA team to include ADEC in the review of the QA documents for water quality assessments, and fish consumption studies QAPP that we receive from AK Tribal Councils. I will also have a meeting with the Tribal Trust Unit and inform the IGAP POs of your request.

This the NEP grant link that I promised Nancy. Good luck!

http://water.epa.gov/resource_performance/grants.cfm

<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/fund.cfm>

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From: Tabor, Brock N (DEC) [<mailto:brock.tabor@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Grepo-Grove, Gina
Cc: Sonafrank, Nancy B (DEC)
Subject: Fish Consumption Surveys in Alaska

Hello Gina,

I just wanted to follow up with you in regards to QA/QC issues in Alaska- specifically, fish consumption survey work that EPA and tribes may be engaged in.

As stated during our meeting, revisions to Alaska's human health criteria is a very important issue to the Department and one that we are actively engaged in. While attending the Alaska Forum on the Environment I heard of several tribes that are actively or considering development of dietary surveys for the purpose of establishing local fish consumption rates. To date, these groups have not engaged DEC in regards to the specific purpose of their work, methods, or QA/QC processes.

Given the very different relationship tribes have in Alaska, versus those of the rest of the country, it is imperative that the state play an active role in the development of these surveys. Our goal is to ensure that data collection and results will be applicable to state efforts to revise state water quality criteria.

You assured me that you would take an active role in informing DEC of any work taking place on this issue within your section-something I greatly appreciate.

Please feel free to forward my contact information to any of your staff that may be relevant to this effort.

Again, thank you for your willingness to promote coordination between the various parties involved in fish consumption rate work here in Alaska.

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